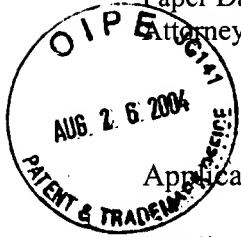


Application No. 09/713,733
Paper Dated: August 23, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 2942-991842



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/713,733 Confirmation No. : 3519

Applicant : Mark KANTROWITZ

Filed : November 15, 2000

Title : **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT
IDENTIFICATION OF DUPLICATE AND NEAR-
DUPLICATE DOCUMENTS AND TEXT SPANS
USING HIGH-DISCRIMINABILITY TEXT FRAGMENTS**

Group Art Unit : 2178

Examiner : Cong Lac T Huynh

Customer No. : 28289

RECEIVED

AUG 31 2004

Technology Center 2100

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
SHOWING CONCEPTION AND DILIGENCE
PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 22, 2000 UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 2000**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I, Mark Kantrowitz, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the named inventor of the invention described and claimed in the above-captioned application.
2. The assignee for the above application is Justsystem Corporation.

3. The present invention, specifically the "Method and Apparatus for Efficient Identification of Duplicate and Near-Duplicate Documents and Text Spans Using High-Discriminability Text Fragments", was first disclosed and mentioned in a Progress Report, dated May 28, 1999, that I created to inform Justsystem of my activities. In particular, in this Progress Report, I wrote "The idea is to look for sequences of consecutive low-DF terms (DF = number of documents containing the term), allowing it to skip over certain extremely high-DF terms (like "of"). This seems to work very well."

4. On June 24, 1999, I submitted an official Invention Disclosure Record to my employer, Justsystem, fully explaining and detailing the present invention. This Invention Disclosure Record was, in turn, provided to our outside patent counsel, namely Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon Orkin & Hanson P.C. (The Webb Law Firm). A copy of the Invention Disclosure Record is attached as Exhibit 1.

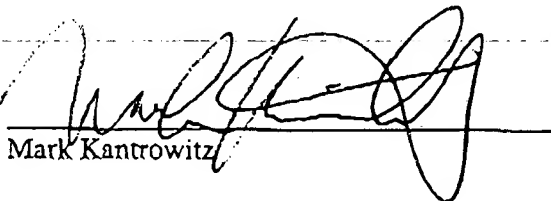
5. From May 28, 1999 until the United States effective filing date of November 15, 2000, I proceeded diligently by working on the development of the final design of the invention, implementation of the software code, and explaining the invention to Justsystem's patent counsel at The Webb Law Firm, reviewing the patent application prepared by patent counsel and filing the patent application in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 2000. Copies of redacted contemporaneous documentation are attached as Exhibit 2.

6. The above application was subsequently filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 2000.

7. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this invention was not sold or in public use in the United States for one year prior to the date of the above application, nor was it patented or described in a printed publication anywhere prior to that time. Finally, the invention was never abandoned.

8. This activity from about May 28, 1999 (which is prior to February 22, 2000) until November 15, 2000, which is the effective filing date of the United States patent application, demonstrates the required evidence of conception and diligence.

9. I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.


Mark Kantrowitz

8/23/04
Date